
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5597

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Benton, Zarelli, Kauffman, Kline, Carrell, Poulsen, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Delvin and Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to contracts with chiropractors; adding a new
2 section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Health carriers may not directly or indirectly, through
7 contract or otherwise, refuse to reimburse for the health care services
8 legally provided by employees of a contracted chiropractor working at
9 the same location as the contracted chiropractor if the service would
10 be a reimbursable benefit but for the contractor's refusal to recognize
11 or reimburse the services performed by employees of the contracted
12 chiropractor.

13 (2) Health carriers may not require directly or indirectly, by
14 contract or otherwise, that a chiropractor comply with health care
15 reimbursement or delivery standards that conflict with those standards
16 and practices authorized or adopted by the Washington state
17 chiropractic quality assurance commission. A contract may not prohibit
18 a chiropractor from delegating duties in accordance with rules
19 governing the chiropractic profession, nor may a contractor refuse to

1 reimburse the contracted chiropractor for such delegated services if
2 those services would be reimbursed if not delegated. A carrier may
3 require all contracted health care providers to participate in a
4 quality assurance program that relies upon evidence-based health care
5 delivery standards.

6 (3) Any term or condition of any contract between a chiropractor
7 and a carrier that violates a provision of this section and any attempt
8 to waive, modify, or shift responsibility for compliance with this
9 section is invalid.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act does not affect any existing right
11 acquired or liability or obligation incurred prior to the effective
12 date of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any provision of this act or its
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Every provider contract executed or renewed
18 on or after January 1, 2008, shall conform to the provisions of this
19 act.

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